

## SACD PLAYER/DAC

hi-fi news  
OUTSTANDING  
PRODUCT

CD/SACD player, USB & S/PDIF DAC  
Made by: T+A elektroakustik GmbH & Co. KG, Germany  
Supplied by: Kog Audio Ltd, UK  
Telephone: 024 7722 0650  
Web: www.taelektroakustik.de; www.kogaudio.com  
Price: £11,200

AUDIO  
FILE



# T+A PDP 3000 HV

**T**+A's newest 'HV' source component, the £11,200 PDP 3000 HV, is designed to tick all the boxes required by today's most demanding audiophiles. It's the company's latest 'statement' D-to-A converter, which supports asynchronous data transfer of PCM up to 384kHz/32-bit and DSD64/DSD128. Moreover with a supplied ASIO driver, PC users running Windows can also play back DSD256 and even DSD512.

T+A has built in an SACD rather than simply a CD drive – a top-loader incorporating an anti-resonance puck which you place on top of the disc – while there are six additional digital inputs: one AES/EBU (XLR) and five S/PDIF (two Toslink, one RCA, two BNC).

*'The bass served up by the organ's largest pipes was utterly seismic'*

The construction of the PDP 3000 HV is nothing short of superb, built around a pure aluminium chassis and boasting complete symmetry and channel separation throughout. Substantial twin power supplies feed the PDP's analogue and digital sections separately, and you find two IEC connectors on the rear panel for its individual AC inlets.

To reinforce the company's no-compromise design approach, DSD data fed into the PDP 3000 HV's USB input from a computer source is handled entirely separately from PCM data. The PDP's DAC section is largely identical to that featured in the company's MP 3000 HV media player [*HFN* June '13] and four digital filter options can be selected via remote control. You can have endless fun experimenting with the PDP 3000 HV's different settings!

As befits a high-end source with a price tag exceeding £10k, both balanced (XLR) and single-ended (RCA) analogue outputs are provided on the rear panel.

**HOLOGRAPHIC SOUND**  
The PDP's sound quality, with CD or pushing data into its USB input, just

sounds 'right'. There's no dramatic colouring or augmentation to musical events, rather it sounds 'pristine' and squeaky-clean. Familiar high resolution downloads of audiophile-quality recordings, for example from 2L and Channel Classics, sounded as holographic and breathtakingly realistic as we've experienced, the sound so obviously unsullied that we found it near impossible to determine any 'character' from the unit itself.

With Channel Classics' beautiful recording of Haydn's String Quartet

**ABOVE:** A rotary source selector and menu/media navigation controls flank the unit's large VFD which incorporates touch-sensitive controls for standby on/off and disc drawer open/close. The rear panel has seven digital inputs plus there's an S/PDIF output and separate analogue outs for the DSD and PCM sections

in D-minor with the Dutch Ragazze Quartet (which we described as bold and richly-coloured when played via the USB input of T+A's MP 3000 HV media player) we were transfixed by the manner in which it portrayed the players' instruments with such vivid three-dimensional body and precise image focus. And especially when playing the native file with the PDP's playback mode set to 'DSD 4' and 'True DSD for DSD64' enabled.

Meanwhile the 1976-vintage analogue recording of 'Julsång' from the Proprius label's *Cantate Domino* [88.2kHz/24-bit, HDtracks] similarly appeared exquisitely 'open' and unvarnished. The massed voices in the chorus remained clear and unforced even during the loudest climaxes, and the powerful bass served up by the organ's largest pipes was utterly seismic.

As well as listening to the PDP 3000 HV via our Mark Levinson No383 integrated amp, we also auditioned it with T+A's flagship 'HV' pre/power combo, complete with additional PS 3000 HV power supply bolstering the A 3000 HV's power stages [*HFN* Sept '14]. What was clearly apparent, even when listening to run-of-the-mill CD-resolution recordings, was that the player/DAC's unadorned deadpan delivery is precisely what the amplifier components require to give of their very best.

### VERDICT

Given the PDP's top-notch sound, plus the fact you're getting three high-end components (SACD/CD disc transport, DSD and PCM DAC) for less than many standalone DACs, this new T+A is unquestionably an audiophile bargain. ☺

### HI-FI NEWS SPECIFICATIONS

Maximum output level (Balanced)	4.60Vrms at 44-50ohm
A-wtd S/N Ratio (SACD / S/PDIF in / USB in)	114.9dB/114.1dB/114.5dB
Distortion (1kHz, 0dBfs/-30dBfs)	0.0008% / 0.00045%
Distortion & Noise (20kHz, 0dBfs/-30dBfs)	0.00085% / 0.015%
Freq. resp. (20Hz-20kHz/45kHz/90kHz)	+0.0dB to -0.37/-0.5/-7.2dB
Digital jitter (SACD / S/PDIF in / USB in)	33psec / 10psec / 12psec
Resolution @ -100dB (SACD / S/PDIF input)	±0.1dB / ±0.2dB
Power consumption (Digital/Analogue)	10W / 15W
Dimensions (WHD) / Weight	460x170x460mm / 26kg